

Abram Ackerman House
East Saddle River Road
Saddle River, Bergen County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-156

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

Abram Ackerman House
East Saddle River Road
Saddle River, Bergen County, New Jersey

Owner: Mr. J. S. Mabon

Date of Erection: Kitchen wing 1750-1760; main house
1781

Architect:

Builder: Abram Ackerman

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Two

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - stone;
gable ends frame construction

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - main house gambrel
with dormers of later date;
wing pitch

Historical Data:

Gerrit³ Ackerman, the second son of Abram² Ackerman and one of the builders of the Ackerman House (NJ-7), was married at Hackensack in 1712 and moved to Saddle River where he died in 1758. He willed his farm to his son Albert⁴ and one hundred

acres on the east side of Saddle River to his elder son Abram⁴. Abram was born in 1716; he was a bachelor of forty odd at his father's death and probably built the wing of the present house for himself about the time of his father's death in 1758. In 1764 he married a widow with three children by whom he had three children. The house was too small to house the growing family so the main section was built by him about 1781. Abram died in 1789.

During the Revolution the Continental Army encamped on the grounds by the river and bread was supposed to have been baked in a Dutch oven connected with the servant's quarters. Washington is supposed to have used the house for his headquarters at the time; however, when one considers the size of the family of Abram Ackerman, this seems rather unlikely.

Erskine's map marks the house Abram Ackerman.⁵ The property was inherited by Abram's only son Gerrit A., born 1769, died 1855. He had five sons and four daughters. It was his daughter Charity Ann⁶, born 1819, died during the 1890s, who inherited the house. She married Henry Achenbach. The house was sold in 1921 by the Achenbach Estate to Charles Scott who owned it until about 1935.

Bibliography:

Bailey, Rosalie F. Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses and Families in Northern New Jersey and Southern New York New York, William Morrow and Company, 1936

Walter C. Rutt

Supervising Historian

Approved:

SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.
District Officer

A D D E N D U M

A search of the Bergen County court records shows that the name was spelled Abraham Ackerman. He died in 1789 leaving two children, a boy and a girl. The son Garret appeared before the court in 1791 and requested a division of the estate. Garret died in 1855 having made his will August 23, 1854. He had five sons and four daughters; one of these was Charity who had married Henry Achenbach. They bought the piece upon which the house stands and received title by deed of October 19, 1857 from Abraham J. Demarest and wife Jane, and John A. Terhune and wife Anne. Jane and Anne were sisters of Charity. The property descended to the three children of Charity and the heirs of the children sold it in 1923 to Charles C. Scott. Scott is still listed as the owner as far as the court records are concerned; however, the property has been sold and Miss Bailey gives the present owner as J. S. Mabon. Mrs. Scott was the owner at the time the survey was made.

Bibliography:

A search of Bergen County court records
by Wallace Dunlop, Bergen County Office

Walter E. Ruth
Supervising Historian